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PAUL C. PATTERSON,

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In each issue of The Times, the circulation figures for the previous day are plainly printed at the head of the first page, at the left of the date line.

Persons leaving the city for a long or short period during the summer can have The Times mailed to them at the rate of thirty cents a month, or seven cents a week. Addresses may be changed as often as desired. All mail subscriptions must be paid in advance.

Gas Company's Melon Party Program Out at Last.

The Sphinx has spoken. The mum oyster has opened its tight-lipped jaws and revealed the pearls that nestle snugly within. The silence is broken. Washington GAS has blown the lid off the holder. At last, after months of secret maneuvering, the power behind the light monopoly has come out into the open. Invitations to the melon party have been issued and the program for the feast has been announced.

The personal organ of the Washington Gas Light Company today made public the capitalization and dividend plans which have been cooking ever since late last winter, when the process was rudely interrupted by the action of The Washington Times and the House District Committee in drawing the fires from beneath the kettle. Stirred, mixed, flavored, seasoned and done to a turn, they are now declared, by the Gas Monopoly newspaper, to be as follows:

First—That the company shall finance all future betterments as the same may be required by the issuance and sale of 5 per cent bonds, the proceeds of which shall be used exclusively for betterment purposes.

Second—That the outstanding \$2,600,000 6 per cent certificates of indebtedness, and \$99,000 first mortgage 4 per cent bonds, aggregating \$2,699,000, shall be refunded by the issuance of a like amount of long-term 5 per cent bonds.

Third—That dividends shall hereafter be declared upon a fair valuation of the company's investment, and not, as heretofore, on the face value of the company's capital stock representing the same; provided always, that said dividends, together with the interest on the company's indebtedness (fixed charges) shall in no event exceed in the aggregate a distribution of more than approximately 6 per cent upon its said fair valuation of the company's investment, meaning by investment the value of all of the property of the company used in the conduct of its business for the convenience of the public.

The gas organ makes the following, highly interesting explanation of the above:

The practical operation of the proposed plan is explained as follows: Taking the fair valuation of the company's property to be \$12,000,000, the company is, legally entitled, under the rule laid down by the Supreme Court in the Consolidated Gas Company cases, to make net earnings thereupon equal to \$720,000 a year, that sum being 6 per cent upon the said valuation. Assuming this claim to be true, it is immaterial to the consumer whether the company pays out that amount of earnings in dividends or in fixed charges, or upon what basis its distributions of its profits are computed.

This "fair valuation" of the company's properties, bear in mind, was fixed by an expert engineer in the employ of the company. He was brought to this city by the gas officials and paid a big sum of money for his time. He was the gas company's man. He represented nobody but the gas company—and his valuation of \$12,000,000 includes an estimate of \$3,000,000 for franchise value and good will as a going concern. His figures for the value of the actual properties used in the conduct of the business are something less than \$10,000,000.

Is this "fair?" Yet observe the nonchalance with which reference is made to the "fair valuation" of the plant.

Observe, if you please, the naivete with which the third proposal is outlined. No more extra dividends will be declared. Nay, not any. Perish the thought! In the future we'll simply pay 6 per cent on \$12,000,000.

What does this mean? The company has been paying dividends of 10 per cent on \$2,600,000, and 6 per cent on certificates of indebtedness of \$2,600,000, and 4 per cent on bonds of \$600,000, or a total of \$440,000. In fat years—when it paid an extra dividend of 70 per cent on its \$2,600,000 stock—this total has run up to \$700,000.

But no more of this. Hereafter the company will pay 6 per cent on \$12,000,000. In the future the company will set aside only \$780,000 every year instead of sometimes \$440,000 and occasionally \$700,000!

Isn't that a simple solution? Isn't it remarkable that, during all the discussion of gas problems for the last two or three years, nobody ever thought of such an easy remedy? Why, it's so simple it almost explains itself. We don't know whose fertile brain conceived the plan, but whoever was its possessor certainly should never lack for employment in this progressive age.

That second proposal is worth consideration, too. Here the company intends to make absolutely valid those \$2,600,000 certificates of indebtedness over whose validity there has always lain a shadow. These, it will be remembered, were outright gifts to stockholders. They were created out of the ambient atmosphere and presented to the faithful free of charge. Not one penny ever went into the treasury or the property of the company in return for these certificates, but now they are to be turned into interest-bearing bonds that will eventually be redeemed for cash.

The process is identically the same that would be followed by a man who would put a mortgage on his home, receive nothing from the party to whom the mortgage was given and then turn round and pay the mortgage off at its face value.

When the Gas Monopoly converts its certificates of indebtedness into bonds it will be doing exactly what the Coudrey resolution prohibits. It will be taking the very action which the Coudrey resolution was intended to prevent. It will be beating this resolution into action. It will be an acknowledgement that the company dare not give Congress another chance to block its plans for capitalization jugglery.

The first proposal for financial reorganization is wise and sound. How it managed to creep into a set of plans that are otherwise calculated to put huge sums of money into the pockets of officers and stockholders at the expense of consumers is inexplicable. As far as it goes

its journey is in the right direction, but its good points are outweighed a thousand times by the iniquities of the other two proposals.

An interesting phase of the Gas Monopoly plans is the insight they give into the probable, present condition of the company's treasury. It was a year ago that the price of gas was reduced from \$1 to 90 cents, but it seems that surplus profits are as great as or greater than ever. The experience of other gas companies in finding profits bigger after prices have been cut seems to have been the experience of the local company.

Naturally, the officers want to divide up this surplus. It would be a horrible mistake to get rid of it by reducing the price of gas to a point where it would just pay for itself and afford a reasonable return to stockholders.

Just where cheaper gas will appear in this reorganization plan is not made clear. It is stated that profits will be taken up to 6 per cent on \$13,000,000, or up to \$780,000. What will happen when profits exceed that figure is a mystery. It is conceivable, however, that the brain which produced the financial arrangement now proposed would be able to evolve some satisfactory method of disposing of any additional surplus when the time arrived for consideration of such a problem.

The meeting of stockholders to approve the financial reorganization scheme is called for September 26. It remains to be seen whether it will be a happy or a disappointing melon party.

PEOPLE ENTITLED TO IMMEDIATE ACTION.

Nobody will deny that the Interstate Commerce Commission is a busy institution, nor will anybody deny that the question of open or closed cars for the city of Washington is relatively of minor importance when considered as one of the many problems which the Commission are called upon to investigate and solve. Naturally, the Interstate Commerce Commission cannot be expected to drop everything else and take up a case that concerns only the people of one comparatively small community. As long as the Commission is flooded with complaints as to the reasonableness or unreasonableness of freight and passenger rates that affect millions of people, it must be excused if it doesn't act on our closed car issue as quickly as we like to have it.

However, it is to be hoped the members of the Interstate Commerce Commission bear in mind the fact that they are our only refuge. The summer is slowly crawling on toward fall and the stuffy, closed cars are getting more and more unendurable as the temperature rises. The traction companies evidently do not intend to yield to the demands of the public unless forced to do so by constituted authority. The people of Washington are suffering inconvenience, discomfort, and injustice. If the Interstate Commerce Commission is going to do anything for the city's relief, it will have to do it soon.

The District of Columbia is not responsible for the system which places this closed car burden upon the Commission. Its people regret it just as sincerely as the members of the Commission could possibly regret it. However, the essential fact that nowhere else with the Commission, and nowhere else, remains. The Commissioners will gain the deep gratitude of this city if they will find time to investigate the closed car situation at once and authorize the application of remedies for the evils which impose such a hardship upon the public.

AUTOMATIC INDEMNITY FOR EMPLOYEES NEEDED.

With the National Association of Manufacturers, many States, and the Government working for the establishment of a system of automatic, employees' indemnity, there is good reason to believe that before many more years this needed, economic reform will have been accomplished.

Already States are beginning to put into practical operation the theory that employees, especially of industrial and utility corporations, are entitled to protection against loss of time or physical impairment, and that in case of death due to the dangers of their trade those dependent upon them are entitled to compensation for loss of support. Employers of labor are beginning to recognize the necessity of granting such protection, and the National Association of Manufacturers is now engaged in trying to evolve a just indemnity schedule for the use of its members. In pursuance of the direction of Congress, the President has just appointed a commission to investigate the questions of employers' liability and employees' compensation for the purpose of laying before the national law-making body the groundwork of a plan for automatic indemnity to employees of corporations transacting an interstate business.

As in many other reforms pertaining to conditions of labor, we in this country have been slow to recognize the justice and economic value of fixed compensation for injury and accidental death of workmen. The tendency of society to allow such issues to drift has created a condition which is bad for employer and employee. Our policy has not only made necessary but has encouraged litigation of differences which could better be settled directly between the parties directly concerned. Injured employees have fallen into the hands of unscrupulous lawyers, whose tactics have been resented by employers, who have gotten into the habit of resisting claims for injuries to employees on general principles, without regard to the merits of the particular cases. This is but the natural result of the employers' experiences with a type of attorney who stoops to any deceit, who would betray his client,

or who would not hesitate to blackmail his client's employer if he could do so with profit and without danger.

Such a condition has thrown up almost unmountable obstacle between employer and employee. At the same time it has proved an obstacle to the employee in his efforts to collect a just indemnity. When injured he has had to go to law, fight his case through court after court, and finally turn over half or more of his ultimate compensation to his attorney. The time he needs his indemnity is immediately after his accident. The time his wife and children need compensation for his death is immediately after his death. He or they should have it all. There is no reason the lion's share should be given to another.

The purpose of the movement for fixed compensation is to make the payment of indemnity practically automatic following the occurrence of accident. The attorney's fees and court expenses will be eliminated and the money will be received when most needed. It is doubtful if the employer, in the end, will be put to more expense than he is under now. He, too, will be saved legal costs, and his chance of being unjustly taxed at the hands of sympathetic juries will be removed. Whether it costs him less, as much, or more, however, he will make the trade pay the bill, just as he makes the trade pay the other bills incident to the conduct of his business.

Fixed compensation for employees and their estates will eventually arrive. It cannot arrive too soon.

CORNERSTONE LAID FOR TEXAS COLLEGE

PLAINVIEW, Tex., July 12.—The cornerstone of the Wayland Baptist College was laid here today with interesting ceremonies, conducted under the auspices of the Masonic Lodge, Jewell P. Lightfoot, attorney general of Texas, delivered the chief oration.

What's on the Program in Washington

Amusements.

Belasco Roof Garden—"Midsummer Night's Dream," 8:15 p. m.
Columbia—"Sunday," 8:15 p. m.
Casino—Motion pictures and vaudeville.
Cosmos—Motion pictures and vaudeville.
Majestic—Vaudeville.
Masonic Auditorium—Motion pictures.
Georgetown Open Air Theater—Motion pictures and vaudeville, 7:45 and 9:15 p. m.
Glen Echo—Dancing and motion pictures.
Luna Park—Music and vaudeville.
Chevy Chase Lake—Section of Marine Band.

Excursions.

Steamer St. Johns leaves Seventh street wharf 7 p. m.
Old Point Comfort and Norfolk—Steamer leaves Seventh street wharf 6:45 p. m.
Retail Clerks' International Association, Local No. 282, excursion to Marshall Hall—Steamer Charles Macalester leaves Seventh street wharf 6:30 and 8:30 p. m.
Aloysis Club excursion to Chesapeake Beach—Trains leave District line 2:30, 5:45, 7:45, and 9:15 p. m.
(The Times will be pleased to announce meetings and entertainments in this column. Phone or write announcements.)

Mrs. Anderson Entertaining Mrs. Longworth at Bar Harbor

Daughter of Former President Will Be Guest at Numerous Festivities at Maine Coast Resort—Rear Admiral and Mrs. Rodgers Hosts at Newport.

Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, wife of Representative Longworth, is the guest of Mrs. Nicholas Anderson, of Washington, at her summer home at Bar Harbor for a week or more. A number of festivities have been planned in honor of the daughter of the former President.

Later Mrs. Longworth will go to Beverly, where she will join her husband at the summer home of his mother, Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Buckner Randolph, brother-in-law and sister of Representative Longworth, who were in Washington for a few days en route to Beverly, have arrived there.

Rear Admiral and Mrs. Raymond Perry Rodgers, U. S. N., entertained at dinner at the Naval Training Station at Newport last evening.

Senator John Keen, accompanied by his mother and sister, Mrs. Keen and Miss Elizabeth Keen, who have been spending the early summer at their home in New Jersey, have gone to New York for a fortnight. They will probably visit Sumner and North Shore resorts before the close of the season.

Colonel Cosby

Sails for Europe.

Col. Spencer Cosby, U. S. A., and Mrs. Cosby closed their residence on Q street Monday, and went over to New York, from whence Colonel Cosby sailed this morning for Europe. He goes as a delegate to the international road congress at Brussels. In his absence Mrs. Cosby will spend the summer with her mother, Mrs. Charles R. Shepard, at the latter's summer home at Southampton, L. I., and at Lenox.

Rear Admiral Brownson, U. S. N., and Mrs. Brownson, who have been on a fishing trip at Restigouche, Canada, have arrived in New York. They will probably spend the remainder of the summer abroad.

Lieut. and Mrs. Charles T. Hutchins, Jr., U. S. N., son and daughter-in-law of Rear Admiral and Mrs. Hutchins, U. S. N., who were married in New York Monday, and are taking an automobile trip, are spending a few days at Lenox, Mass.

Miss Ethel Robeson, who has been visiting Rear Admiral and Mrs. R. P. Rodgers, U. S. N., at the Naval Training Station at Newport, is now the guest of Miss Van Ness Phillips at her place on the Hudson.

Mrs. Crawford

Going to Murray Bay.

Mrs. Joseph Crawford and Miss Caryl Crawford will leave Washington tomorrow for Murray Bay, Canada, where they will spend the remainder of the summer. Mrs. Crawford will join them in August and they do not expect to return to Washington until October. Miss Crawford has just returned to the city from a brief sojourn in the mountains of Virginia.

Col. Archibald Grace and Miss Edith Grace will leave Washington in a few days to join Mrs. Grace at Brown's Springs, Va., where they will spend the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis A. Rowe will leave Washington this evening for Norfolk, en route to New York by water.

Lewis B. Cooke and Joseph Levy have gone to Atlantic City for a stay of several weeks.

Fish-Cutler Wedding Will Take Place October 5.

The wedding of Miss Emily Rosemond Fish, daughter of Representative Hamilton Fish, to John Cutler, of Brookline, Mass., will take place Wednesday, October 5, at the summer home of the bride-elect's father at Garrison-on-the-Hudson.

Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, an aunt of the bride, will give the wedding reception at the historic old Fish residence at Garrison, and will also be hostess at several pre-nuptial entertainments in honor of the young couple.

The engagement of Miss Fish and Mr. Cutler was announced early in May just before the departure of the family for their summer home.

At the marriage of Miss Priscilla Toland to Gaspar Griswold Bacon, son of the American Ambassador to France and Mrs. Robert Bacon, Saturday, at White Marsh, Pa., the bride will be attended by Miss Martha Bacon, a sister of the bridegroom-elect, as maid of honor.

Miss Julia Biddle, Miss Cecelia Higgins, Miss Salvador Meade, Miss Hebe C. Wright, Miss Anna Warren Ingersoll, Miss Emily Fox, and Miss Frances Stokes will act as bridesmaids.

Robert L. Bacon will act as best man for his brother.

The ceremony will be performed by the Rev. Dr. Endicott Penhobby, of Groton, in St. Thomas Church, in the White Marsh valley.

A wedding breakfast and reception will follow at Aubrey, the country home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dale Toland.

The American Ambassador to France

hurray, fill 'em up again! idea is all right while the balloon is going up, but when the gas escapes and you start on the ultimate downward trip this id world begins to look like a mighty hard piece of real estate.

Shakespeare divided a man's life into seven stages, depending on the state of his affections, but Dun and Bradstreet make only four divisions, depending on the size of his bank account. The statisticians employed by the life insurance companies have compiled figures which show that the first stage of man is up to twenty, when he spends most of his time acquiring bad habits, which it will take him a lifetime to get rid of, and giving his father advice on how to best conduct his affairs. This may well be termed the egotistical age.

The second period is from twenty to forty, which could be well called the accumulative period. During this period either success or failure is absolutely settled. By the time a man is forty he is on the road to success in his particular line of endeavor or has the indelible stamp of failure on his life.

The third period is from forty to sixty, which should be the time of caution, as during this time of life a man who speculates has everything to lose and nothing to gain. Above the age of fifty statistics show only one man in 5,000 can recover his financial footing if lost.

The fourth period is after sixty, and is the dependent period, for the figures show the astonishing fact that after that age 45 per cent are dependent on their daily earnings for their support or are supported by their children.

Can there be any more striking lesson or greater incentive toward saving than these figures? The facts are tabu-

and Mrs. Bacon recently arrived in this country to attend their son's wedding.

Judge A. R. Muldowney and Mrs. Muldowney are spending several weeks at Asbury Park, N. J.

The marriage of Miss Ruby Gillespie Elliott and John D. Howard took place last evening at the home of the bride in the Rockingham. Only a small party of relatives and intimate friends were present at the ceremony, at which the Rev. John M. Cooper officiated.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard will reside at the Rockingham upon their return from their bridal trip.

Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Guggenheim, of 2023 M street northwest, entertained last evening at a crab feast in honor of their guest, Miss Heim, of New York city.

The guests included Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hendrich, Miss Allene Adler, of Baltimore, Md.; Miss Elmer Strauss, of New Haven, Conn.; Miss Rena Friedman, Miss Leona Stubb, Miss Ernestine Rich, Miss Florence Gust, Miss Irene Einstein, Miss Rena Solomon, Miss Lillian Burnstein, Miss Vera Schiffman, Miss Lillian Somers, and Herbert Jacob, Dave Stern, Lawrence Strasburger, Herbert Rich, Lester Marks, Lawrence Gassenheimer, Melville Fischer, Norman Fischer, Stanley Fischer, Eugene Young, Arthur Newman, Lester Newman, Meyer Loeb, Alvin Newmyer, Percy Hirsch, and Bernard Baer.

L. L. Blount left yesterday to join his wife at Atlantic City.

Milton Haer, of Georgetown, is spending some time with his sister, Mrs. Ernest Maas, of Tampa, Fla.

Bert Cohen, of Columbia road, is among the Washington representation at Atlantic City.

A. D. Prince and Julius Peyser have returned to this city, after spending several days with their families near Pen Mar, Pa.

Miss Gladys Mayer is the guest of Mrs. A. M. Baer and daughter, Rita, at Ocean View, Md.

Mr. and Mrs. Lou Simon and Maury Simon have returned from an automobile trip to Braddock Heights and vicinity.

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SEALER TO PUNISH SHORT WEIGHT MEN

Grocers and Marketmen of Doubtful Methods Will Be Arrested.

Col. W. C. Haskell, sealer of weights and measures, today announced the beginning of a crusade against grocers and marketmen dealing in short weight.

Recently several arrests have been made on this charge, and in each instance the proprietor has forfeited collateral rather than face publicity by appearing in the Police Court.

Colonel Haskell said today that in the future he will ask for a bench warrant to compel the appearance of the accused in court.

"To advertise 'special' or 'bargain' prices for food products and then defraud a customer by giving him short weight is the meanest sort of petty graft and will not be tolerated by this department," said Colonel Haskell. "Persons of limited means are the ones who suffer most. Attracted by the advertisement of special prices, they make their purchases thinking to effect a saving, whereas in reality they are paying a large price for their goods."

A report of the arrest of a proprietor of a grocery and market store on the charge of selling short weight was submitted by Colonel Haskell to the Commissioners today. In this instance, Sunday, which in many instances were less than the prices quoted by wholesalers for the same goods in large quantities.

A "California shoulder" was purchased by one of the inspectors of the sealer's office which, at the price quoted, should have weighed four pounds and ten ounces. Its actual weight was one pound less.

Asked for an explanation, the dealer said he had charmed at the rate of 17 cents a pound as "he was out of the 15-cent brand."

An inquiry as to why he charged an advanced price on the day he had advertised to sell at reduced rates elic